

to which assets of Holocaust victims fell into Federal hands is much, much larger than we thought even a year ago, when we first established this Commission.

Last month, at the quarterly, meeting of the Commissioners in Washington, we unveiled a "map" of Federal and related offices through which these assets may have flowed. To everyone's surprise, taking a sample year—1943—we found more than 75 separate entities that may have been involved.

The records of each of these offices must first be located and then scoured—page by page—at the National Archives and other record centers across the United States. In total, we must look at tens of millions of pages to complete the historical record of this period.

Furthermore, to our nation's credit, we are currently declassifying millions of pages of World War II-era information that may shine light on our government's policies and procedures during that time. But, this salutary effort dramatically increases the work the Commission must do to fulfill the mandate we have given it.

In addition, as the Commission pursues its research, it is discovering new aspects of the story of Holocaust assets that hadn't previously been understood. The Commission's research may be unearthing an alarming trend to import into the United States through South America, art and other possessions looted from Holocaust victims. Pursuing these leads will require the review of additional thousands of documents.

The Commission is also finding aspects of previously known incidents that have not been carefully or credibly researched. The ultimate fate of the so-called "Hungarian Gold Trains,"—for example—a set of trains containing the art, gold, and other valuables of Hungarian victims of the Nazis that was detained by the liberating US Army during their dash for Berlin has not been carefully investigated.

In another area of our research investigators are seeking to piece together the puzzle of foreign-owned intellectual property—some of which may have been owned by victims of Nazi genocide—the rights to which were vested in the Federal government under wartime law.

For all the reasons and more, I am introducing today with Senators BOXER, DODD and GRAMS the "U.S. Holocaust Assets Commission Extension Act of 1999." This simple piece of legislation moves to December, 2000, the date of the final report of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Holocaust Assets in the United States, giving our investigators the time to do a professional and credible job on the tasks the Congress has assigned to them.

This bill also authorizes additional appropriations for the Commission to complete its work. I strongly urge all

of my colleagues to join me in support of this necessary and simple piece of legislation.

As we approach the end of the millennium, the United States is without a doubt the strongest nation on the face of the earth. Our strength, however, is not limited to our military and economic might. Our nation is strong because we have the resolve to look at ourselves and our history honestly and carefully—even if the truth we find shows us a less-than-flattering light.

The Presidential Advisory Commission on Holocaust Assets in the United States is seeking the truth about the belongings of Holocaust victims that came into the possession or control of the United States government. All of my colleagues should support this endeavor, and we must give the Commission the time and support it needs by supporting the U.S. Holocaust Assets Commission Extension Act of 1999.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1520

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "U.S. Holocaust Assets Commission Extension Act of 1999".

#### SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE U.S. HOLOCAUST ASSETS COMMISSION ACT OF 1998.

(a) EXTENSION OF TIME FOR FINAL REPORT.—Section 3(d)(1) of the U.S. Holocaust Assets Commission Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 1621 nt.) is amended by striking "December 31, 1999" and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 2000".

(b) REAUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 9 of the U.S. Holocaust Assets Commission Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 1621 nt.) is amended—

(1) by striking "\$3,500,000" and inserting in lieu thereof "\$6,000,000"; and

(2) by striking "1999, and 2000," and inserting in lieu thereof "1999, 2000, and 2001,".

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 1522. A bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to ensure that all dogs and cats used by research facilities are obtained legally; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

#### PET SAFETY AND PROTECTION ACT OF 1999

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Pet Safety and Protection Act of 1999, a bill to close a serious loophole in the Animal Welfare Act. Senators KENNEDY, DURBIN, INOUE and LEBIN are cosponsors of the legislation.

Congress passed the Animal Welfare Act over 30 years ago to stop the mistreatment of animals and to prevent the unintentional sale of family pets for laboratory experiments. Despite the Animal Welfare Act's well-meaning intentions and the enforcement efforts of the Department of Agriculture, the Act routinely fails to provide pets and pet owners with reliable protection against the actions of some unethical dealers.

Medical research is an invaluable weapon in the battle against disease. New drugs and surgical techniques offer promise in the fight against AIDS, cancer, and a host of life-threatening diseases. Animal research has been, and continues to be, fundamental to advancements in medicine. I am not here to argue whether animals should or should not be used in research. Rather, I am concerned with the sale of stolen pets and stray animals to research facilities.

These are less than 40 "random source" animal dealers operating throughout the country who acquire tens of thousands of dogs and cats. "Random source" dealers are USDA licensed Class B dealers that provide animals for research. Many of these animals are family pets, acquired by so-called "bunchers" who sometimes resort to theft and deception as they collect animals and sell them to Class B dealers. "Bunchers" often respond to "free pet to a good home" advertisements, tricking animal owners into giving away their pets by posing as someone interested in adopting the dog or cat. Some random source dealers are known to keep hundreds of animals at a time in squalid conditions, providing them with little food or water. The mistreated animals often pass through several hands and across state lines before they are eventually sold by a random source dealer to a research laboratory.

Mr. President, the use of these animals in research is subject to legitimate criticism because of the fraud, theft, and abuse that I have just described. Dr. Robert Whitney, former director for the Office of Animal Care and Use at the National Institutes of Health echoed this sentiment when he stated, "The continue existence of these virtually unregulatable Class B dealers erodes the public confidence in our commitment to appropriate procurement, care, and use of animals in the important research to better the health of both humans and animals." While I doubt that laboratories intentionally seek out stolen or fraudulently obtained dogs and cats as research subjects, the fact remains that these animals end up in research laboratories, and little is being done to stop it. Mr. President, it is clear to most observers, including animal welfare organizations around the country, that this problem persists because of random source animal dealers.

The Pet Safety and Protection Act strengthens the Animal Welfare Act by prohibiting the use of random source animal dealers as suppliers of dogs and cats to research laboratories. At the same time, the Pet Safety and Protection Act preserves the integrity of animal research by encouraging research laboratories to obtain animals from legitimate sources that comply with the Animal Welfare Act. Legitimate sources are USDA-licensed Class A dealers or breeders, municipal pounds that choose to release dogs and cats for

research purposes, legitimate pet owners who want to donate their animals to research, and private and federal facilities that breed their own animals. These four sources are capable of supplying millions of animals for research, far more cats and dogs than are required by current laboratory demand. Furthermore, at least in the case of using municipal pounds, research laboratories could save money since pound animals cost only a few dollars compared to the high fees charged by random animal dealers. The National Institutes of Health, in an effort to curb abuse and deception, has already adopted policies against the acquisition of dogs and cats from random source dealers.

The Pet Safety and Protection Act also reduces the Department of Agriculture's regulatory burden by allowing the Department to sue its resources more efficiently and effectively. Each year, hundreds of thousands of dollars are spent on regulating 40 random source dealers. To combat any future violations of the Animal Welfare Act, the Pet Safety and Protection Act increases the penalties under the Act to a minimum of \$1,000 per violation.

The history of disregard for the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act by some animal dealers makes the Pet Safety and Protection Act necessary. Mr. President, the purpose of this Act to stop the fraudulent practices of some Class B Dealers. Most importantly, it ensures that animals used in research are not gained by theft or deceit, and are provided decent shelter, ventilation, sanitation, and nourishment. The bill in no way impairs or impedes research, but ends senseless neglect, brutality, and deceit.●

By Mrs. LINCOLN:

S. 1523. A bill to provide a safety net for agricultural producers through improvement of the marketing assistance loan program, expansion of land enrollment opportunities under the conservation reserve program, and maintenance of opportunities for foreign trade in United States agricultural commodities; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

"HELP OUR PRODUCERS EQUITY (HOPE) ACT OF 1999

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I am introducing legislation today to provide a ray of hope for our farmers across the country. The situation is dire in the agricultural community. Commodity prices are at Depression era levels and are projected to remain low through this year and beyond. Despite the federal government's efforts over the past year to alleviate some of the financial strain affecting the agriculture industry, a simple fact remains: we no longer have a policy that protects farmers when forces beyond their control drive prices down.

Farmers are the hardest working people I know. They work from dusk to dawn on land that has been past down from generation to generation. This

heritage is in jeopardy of being lost due to depressed commodity prices and the lack of an adequate safety net for family farmers.

The agricultural industry is the backbone of rural communities. I'm not just hearing from farmers about this crisis. In the past weeks and months, I've talked with bankers, tractor and implement dealers, fertilizer distributors, and even the local barber shop. They are all concerned about the train wreck that will occur if nothing is done to provide an adequate safety net for producers. The bottom line in rural America: if farmers are hurting, everyone is hurting.

It's really ironic watching the news these days. We're too busy patting ourselves on the back over the strength of the stock market and a potential tax cut that we have all but forgotten those that are not benefitting from this record setting economy. This situation is very reminiscent of the roaring 20's that our country experienced earlier in the century, followed by the Great Depression of the 1930's. I hope and pray that it does not take a situation so severe and drastic to convince this Congress, and the nation, that our agricultural sector and domestic production needs our support.

The HOPE Act that I am introducing today is built on solid but simple principles and takes steps to reestablish a safety net for our nation's farmers. To reconstruct the safety we must restore the formula based marketing loan structure that existed prior to the 1996 Farm Bill. Loan rates were arbitrarily capped in 1996 and I feel that it is imperative to return this assistance loan back into a formula based, market-oriented program. In doing so, loan rates would more accurately reflect market trends and provide an adequate price floor for producers. No business in America can survive selling their products at levels below cost of production. With Depression era prices, that is the situation our farmers currently face. An adequate safety net must be restored. This legislation also extends the loan term by up to six months, allowing farmers more time to market their crops at the most advantageous price.

Secondly, my legislation would require the President to fully explain the benefits and costs of existing food sanctions. It does not make sense to force Cuba to purchase their rice from Asia when the United States is only 90 miles away. Without access to foreign markets, we cannot expect the agricultural community to survive. We cannot let our foreign policy objectives cloud common sense. These sanctions rarely impose significant hardship on the dictators against whom they are targeted. The unfortunate victims are the innocent citizens of these foreign lands and the U.S. producers who lose valuable markets when these restrictions are put into place. We require cost/benefit analysis from almost all sections for our government regulators. We should

do no less in our agricultural trade arena.

I am also very committed to preserving our environment. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) are responsible for taking a great number of erodible acres out of production. Unfortunately, these programs are victims of their own success because they are near the maximum enrollment levels allowed by current law. I propose to expand these programs so that even more marginal acreage is eligible for participation.

I urge my colleagues to act quickly and address the growing crisis in the agriculture community. Everyone of us enjoys the safest, most abundant, and most affordable food supply in the world. Unfortunately, we often take that for granted in this nation. The consequences of doing nothing are far too great. This safe and abundant supply will not be there for this Nation or the world if we do not support our family farmers at this critical time.

By Mr. BREAUX:

S. 1524. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for the creation of a certification program for Motor Carrier Safety Specialist and certain informational requirements in order to promote highway safety through a comprehensive review of motor carriers; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY SPECIALIST  
CERTIFICATION ACT

Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Motor Carrier Safety Specialist Act. The reason for the Act is to ensure that all inspectors performing compliance reviews on inter- and intra-state motor carriers are certified to a uniform standard and proficiency. This Act is in part a response to the recent bus accident in Louisiana by Custom Bus Charter, Inc. in which 22 people were killed, and in which the driver was found to have marijuana in his system.

In July 1996, just four months after the Federal Highway Administration ("FHWA") inspected and assigned a Satisfactory rating to Customs Bus Charter, Inc., a private company under contract to the Department of Defense failed Custom Bus Charter, Inc. for not having a drug and alcohol testing program. The absence of a drug and alcohol testing program is a FHWA Critical violation for which the carrier should have been assigned, at best, a Conditional rating by FHWA. Furthermore, 27 percent of motor carriers that were assigned a Satisfactory rating by FHWA, failed to enter the DoD program because of Critical violations discovered by the DoD contractor. These examples demonstrate that FHWA does not have the resources and structure to certify inspectors, and that compliance reviews are not always performed in a consistent or accurate manner.